



BEACONSFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

YEAR 1942

T.P. EVANS

Medical Officer of Health.



September, 1943.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1942.

Following its custom of previous war-time years, on grounds of national security, the Ministry of Health recommends that Annual Reports should not disclose such Tables of local populations as may enable a series of local populations to be reconstructed. Nor should reference be made to activities in connection with war-time industrial, military or other important developments.

During the year 1942, the health of the residents of Beaconsfield as a whole was good, particularly if judged by the relative immunity from communicable notifiable infectious diseases. Like most other authorities, however, we have had to deal with a fair number of cases of scabies. These have not occurred in large numbers together as though in epidemic, but in evenly and fairly regularly distributed numbers throughout the year. Though powers were granted to the Medical Officer of Health to treat compulsorily certain cases under the SCABIES ORDER of 1941, these powers have not been used, but reliance has been placed upon the cooperation of the patient. Treatment of evacuees has been undertaken at Malew Sick Bay.

It is worth noting that it is now generally accepted that this disease was gradually on the increase in the pre-war years, and whilst there is no doubt that the conditions associated with the war may have provided the conditions for a sudden increase in its spread, the war itself is no longer regarded as the sole reason for its widespread appearance. Some large authorities have made scabies compulsorily notifiable.

Judged by the steady stream of requests for prophylactic immunisation against Diphtheria, it is an obvious conclusion that Beaconsfield parents are continuing unabated their interest in preventive inoculation. At the end of 1942, our proportion of immunised children in the two groups was as follows:

Under 5 years of age : Percentage of children immunised 65.5

Between 5 and 15 years : " " " " 76.5

The year 1942 was made notable in the annals of Public Health by a nation-wide broadcast by the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health on Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease. The significance of the broadcast was twofold. These two diseases are two social scourges; so far as the former is concerned, the broadcast foretold the impending attack on the disease by Mass Radiography; so far as Venereal Disease is concerned, the broadcast was the first authoritative voice that tore to tatters the Taboos that have shrouded in dismal ignorance any frank and open discussion on this vitally important subject.

In conclusion, I feel I must thank very cordially the officers of your Council for their continued cooperation throughout the year: more especially to Mr Crosby, your Sanitary Inspector, whose assistance has been invaluable, and I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation of the kindly goodwill shown to me by the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

T.P. EVANS

Medical Officer of Health.



## ARRANGEMENTS OF THE REPORT

### STAFF

#### A. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Special Conditions.  
Area: Population: etc.  
Births and Deaths.

#### B. HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance Facilities.  
Nursing.  
Clinics and Hospitals.

#### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water  
Drainage and Sewerage  
Closet Accommodation

#### D. HOUSING

#### E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Foods.

#### F. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### S T A F F

#### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Appointed 18th August, 1941.

#### SANITARY INSPECTOR

JOHN H. CROSBY, F.I.A.S., F.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.

#### A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres) of the District	...	...	...	...	5,314
No. of Inhabitable Houses	...	...	...	...	1740
Rateable Value of Area	...	...	...	...	£79565
Sum represented by 1d rate	...	...	...	...	£326

#### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The district continues to be predominantly residential.

#### BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

##### BIRTHS.

(a) <u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ...	45	36	81
Illegitimate .	2	2	4

##### (b) Still Births.

Legitimate ...	0	1	1
Illegitimate .	0	1	1
<u>Rate per 1,000 total births</u>	24.7		

## DEATHS

Total Deaths .. .. .	78
(a) Deaths from Puerperal Causes	NIL.
(b) Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	
	<u>Males.</u> <u>Females.</u> <u>Total.</u>
	1 1 2.
Legitimate ... ..	1 1 2.
Illegitimate ... ..	0 0 0.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	23.5
England and Wales ... ..	49.0

## (c) DISEASES etc.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Heart Disease .. .. .	9	7
Cancer ... ..	5	12
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	4	5
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	1	0
Pneumonia ... ..	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	1
Tuberculosis ... ..	1	0
Diabetes ... ..	1	0
Infant Diseases ... ..	1	0
Digestive Disturbances ... ..	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach ... ..	2	0
Appendicitis ... ..	1	0
Nephritis ... ..	0	0
Suicide ... ..	0	4
Violent Causes ... ..	0	4
All other causes ... ..	0	1
	6	4
Totals ...	35	43

## B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### (a) Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service which is one of the many Public Health laboratories set up by the Medical Research Council as a wartime measure.

The laboratory, situated in Oxford, has been of great assistance to the Council, not only in the routine microscopical examination of Public Health samples submitted, but also because of the assistance afforded in field surveys, e.g. in the small outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever.

### (b) Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance accommodation for general medical and surgical cases continues to be provided by the local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.



(c) Nursing in the Home

Two District Nurses are practicing in the town: their names and addresses are as follows:-

Nurse Creft & Nurse ~~Shepherd~~ Ralph  
63, Wycombe End, Beaconsfield.

(d) Clinics and Hosp'tals.

There is no general hospital situated within the district. The nearest general hospital is the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor; use is also made of the Emergency Hospitals.

There are a number of Nursing Homes in the district.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly at the Old Rectory, Beaconsfield.

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C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(a) Water Supply.

Regular periodic samples are being taken and submitted for bacteriological investigations. At no time during the year has the character of the drinking water been suspect.

All the Company's water supplies are now being chlorinated in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health.

(b) Public Cleansing.

(i) Refuse Collection. Owing to the difficulties of labour and transport, alterations have had to be made in refuse collection. The present system is that the refuse is collected fortnightly and the intermediate week is used for a house-to-house salvage collection. This scheme appears to give every satisfaction and very few complaints indeed are received.

(ii) Sewering. The Council's Sewering Scheme is on the separate system and the district is sewered throughout with the exception of new building development carried out before the war and isolated houses which are served by a Cesspool Emptying service. There are two Sewage works both carrying out their functions satisfactorily. The considerable increase in the D.W.F. due to increase in population and extension of war industries is being dealt with satisfactorily.

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D. HOUSING.

In spite of a considerable increase in population due to the installation in the district of War industries and the necessary billeting of war workers, the housing condition generally throughout the district is good. Systematic house inspections have been discontinued from the office but all complaints are investigated and dealt with. It will be appreciated that the large number of visits carried out by Billeting Officers affords a good measure of inspection.

# E. INSPECTION AND SURRENDER OF FOOD.

The following foods have been condemned and surrendered during the year.

<u>Tinned Meat.</u>	<u>Fresh Meat.</u>	<u>Fish</u>	<u>Miscellaneous.</u>
15 tins Weight 87½ lbs	91¼ lbs	633 lbs	94 tins of Food i.e. Vegetables, Milk, Small Fish etc.

# F. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

## Diphtheria.

During the year 1942, there were two cases of diphtheria: one occurred in an adult, and the other was unconfirmed bacteriologically.

The campaign in favour of immunisation against diphtheria is showing progressively good results so far as numbers are concerned. The number of children immunised up to 31st December, 1942 are as follows.

Up to 5 years of age ... ..	65.5
Between 5 and 15 years of age ... ..	76.5

## Other Diseases.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases Notified</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	18 ...	Booker ...	0
Whooping Cough ..	18 ...	Home Nursing.	0
Diphtheria ..	2 ...	Booker ...	0
Measles ..	43 ...	Home Nursing	0
Pneumonia ..	0 ...	- ...	8
Meningitis ..	0 ...	- ...	0
Puerperal ..	0 ...	- ...	0
Erysipelas ..	2 ...	- ...	0